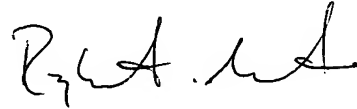


**Preliminary Amendment**

APPLICANT: H. GEORGE PIRES; SERIAL NO. : 10/723,604;  
FILED : NOVEMBER 25, 2003; ATT'Y DOCKET : RM-GPG

that the prosecution of this case can be expedited by a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated hereinbelow.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. A. Monsanto', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Raphael A. Monsanto  
Reg. No. 28,448  
**ROHM & MONSANTO**  
12 Rathbone Place  
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230  
313-886-1966 (Tel.)  
313-886-3130 (Fax)